

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Drawings and Claims 1-2 and 13-17 have been amended to overcome the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Regarding the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 and the recitation of a "pillar-like shape," Applicants respectfully submit that at least with reference to Figs. 20 and 21 that "pillar-like shape" is fully supported and illustrated in the figures.

New Claims 21-23 have been added to provide additional protection for certain aspects of the invention.

Independent Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the magnetic semiconductor memory device further comprises a gap between a first part of the second word line along one of the side surfaces of the first magnetic resistance element and a second part of the second word line along one of the side surfaces of the second magnetic resistance element.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to recite that there is a gap between a first part of the same word line along one side surface of the magnetic resistance element of the first memory cell and a second part of the same word line along one side surface of the magnetic resistance

element of the second memory cell. Regarding the foregoing features of Claims 1, 2, and 13, see Figs. 20-21 for example.

In that Matsuoka fails to teach or suggest these features of Applicants' invention, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn and Claims 1, 2, and 13, and their respective dependents, should now be allowed.

Regarding newly presented Claims 21-23, note the recitation in independent Claim 21 that the magnetic field is applied to the magnetic resistance element by current flowing in three directions in a single line. See, e.g., Fig. 1. As the prior art neither teaches nor suggests this feature, Claims 21-23 are also allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that this application be passed to issue.

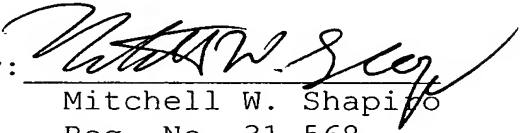
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to
Figs. 2-7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets